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Contacts: Diana Buchanan, Cairns & Associates, 212/421-9770
Denise Horstman, CMA, 216/421-7340, ext. 262

ARCHDUKE DR. GÉZA VON HABSBURG RETURNS BY POPULAR DEMAND

(Cleveland, OH) Archduke Dr. Géza von Habsburg, a great-great-grandson of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria and one of the world's leading authorities on the art of Fabergé, lectured to an enthusiastic crowd at the Cleveland Museum of Art last year, when the traveling exhibition **Fabergé in America** premiered in New York. Habsburg returns to the museum by popular demand for opening week of the exhibition's final venue here (March 9 through May 11, 1997). He will deliver the free lecture "Fabergé: The Workshops and Their Techniques" and autograph books on Wednesday evening, March 12, at 8 pm in the museum's Gartner Auditorium.

With the recent release of once-secret Russian government documents and an influx of new information on the pre-eminent Russian jeweler and craftsman Peter Carl Fabergé, Habsburg has published various groundbreaking articles and books and has organized lectures and exhibitions around the world. The five-city national tour of **Fabergé in America** and the exhibition's accompanying catalogue represent his latest accomplishments.

Archduke Dr. Géza von Habsburg's expertise and knowledge of Peter Carl Fabergé began with the study of art history at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. In 1965, he earned a PhD in the History of Art, Early Christian and Greek Archeology. ↑

lc In 1966, Habsburg accepted the prestigious position of President of Christie's, Manson & Woods Auctioneers in Europe. While supervising this world-renowned auction house, he personally studied and garnered a wealth of information on the art and history of the House of Fabergé.

From Christie's, Habsburg moved on to the Kunsthalle Der Hypokulturstiftung, in Munich, Germany, where he organized and served as chief curator of **Fabergé, Court Jeweler to the Tsars**, the world's largest exhibition of Fabergé jewelry, objects and silver, which received over 250,000 visitors worldwide.

↗ In 1987, he founded his own auction house: Habsburg Fine Art International Auctioneers in New York and Geneva. There, he served as chairman, overseeing a growth to \$80 million and a staff of one hundred worldwide.

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In 1991, as director and chief curator of the Fabergé Arts Foundation, Habsburg curated **Fabergé, Imperial Court Jeweler**, which traveled to the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, receiving a total of more than 600,000 visitors. ^{He is guest curator of} **Fabergé in America**, which opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in February 1996 ^{and} is expected to draw more than 1,000,000 visitors before closing in Cleveland.

As a respected scholar and Fabergé expert, Habsburg has written and lectured extensively about the world of the legendary Russian jeweler. His published works include: *Fabergé, Jeweler to the Tsars*, 1979; *The Gilbert Collection of 18th-Century Gold Boxes*, 1983; *Fabergé, Imperial Jeweler*, 1993; *Carl Fabergé*, 1994; *Fabergé in America*, 1996, the catalogue for the present exhibition; and *Fabergé Fantasies & Treasures*, ^{also} 1996. He continues to serve as a consultant to the art world's leading institutions on identifying and categorizing Fabergé works.

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Fabergé in America has been organized by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. **The Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Fabergé** has been organized by The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Both exhibitions were made possible by FABERGÉ CO. The Cleveland showing is sponsored by the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies and KeyBank. Additional support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support is provided by WDOK 102.1 FM and AM 850 WRMR and *The Plain Dealer*.

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